TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

K 47326

APRIL 1973

60¢

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Item 639K.....King Kong.....$1.00
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Chop a cigarette in two in either hole. Put finger in top hole and cigarette in lower. The cigarette is cut, but your finger is unharmed. Full instructions. $1
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No. 575 Only 35c

FULL SIZE SKELETON
7 FEET TALL EYES GLOW IN THE DARK
This 7 foot tall "BONEY THE SKELETON" is scary enough at any time —but wait till you see him IN THE DARK in all his horrible, spine chilling grandeur, eyes glowing like fiery coals. If you like to haunt houses or frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang "Boney" in your room or to liven up a party.
No. F200 $1.00

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Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.
No. 281 25c

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NO 549 25¢

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Lots of FUN amazing out! This Spearmint Gum with Hot Pepper added. Regulation pack, 5 sticks in cello wrapped package to keep it fresh.
A121 25¢

SURPRISE PACKAGE
Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
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GROW AMAZING LIVE
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Just ADD WATER And You've Got
INSTANT PETS
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Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.
We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

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Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME
ADDRESS ZIP
NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

WEIRD

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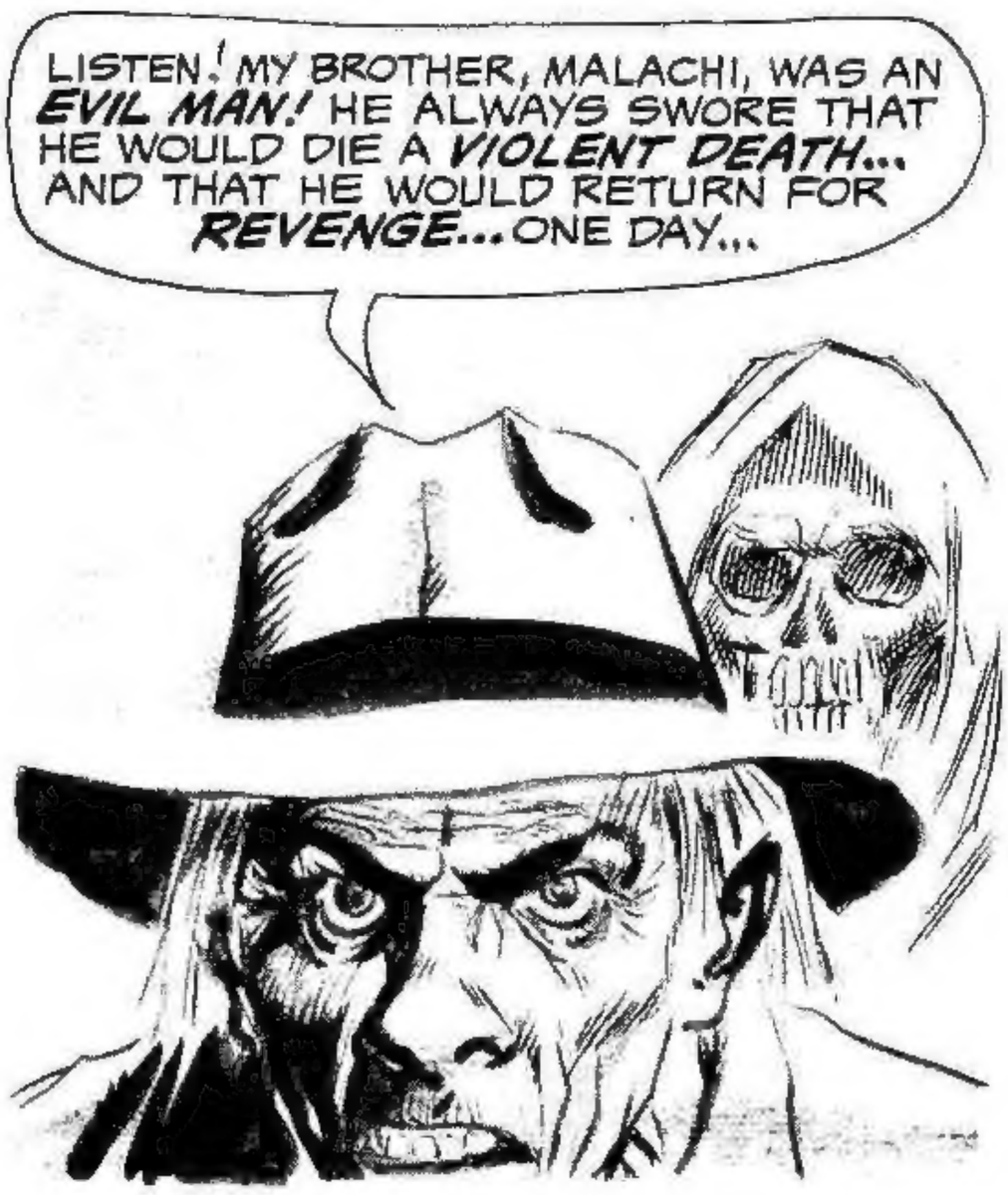
OUT OF AN INNOCENT GAME OF GOLF GREW A TRADE... AND OUT OF THE TRADEGY GREW **MURDEROUS HORROR!** A DARK SHADOW OF DEATHLESS EVIL TURNED PLEASURE INTO BLOOD-FREEZING TERROR!

THE POISON of EVIL

SLOWLY, DECTECTIVE JOYCE PLAYED UP TO THE 13TH GREEN! AND IN HIS MIND WAS THE NAMELESS ... FEAR OF WHAT FINNEGAN HAD RAVED ABOUT!

AAARGHH!
NOW... I... HAVE... YOU...

ALL RIGHT, YOU KILLER... NOW LET'S SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE...! WHY... IT'S FINNEGAN...!!
NO! NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S MY DEAD BROTHER WHO KILLS! LET ME TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY... I CAN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF ANY LONGER...!


LISTEN! MY BROTHER, MALACHI, WAS AN EVIL MAN! HE ALWAYS SWORE THAT HE WOULD DIE A VIOLENT DEATH... AND THAT HE WOULD RETURN FOR REVENGE... ONE DAY...

...MALACHI DIED VIOLENTLY --AS HE PREDICTED!"
13
UNNHHH!

"...AND THEN...ONE DAY... I WAS TRIMMING THE GRASS ON THE 13 TH GREEN--"
EEEYAHHH! NO! NO! MALACHI! IT CAN'T BE... YOU'RE DEAD!
I SWORE I WOULD RETURN, BROTHER! THE EVIL DEAD CAN WALK AGAIN... AND YOU WILL CARRY OUT MY REVENGE!!
13

I CANNOT BE SEEN OR HEARD BY ANY BUT THOSE WHO OBEY MY WISHES! YOU WILL TRAP MEN HERE ON THIS GREEN WHERE I WAS KILLED... AND MURDER FOR ME!!
NO! N-NO! MALACHI! I CANNOT KILL!

YOU CAN KILL! YOU WILL KILL! SEE THAT GIRL WALKING ALONE TOWARD THE GREEN? ...KILL HER! KILL!
YES... I MUST... KILL!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME...I HAD TO KILL THAT GIRL...
EEEEEE! HELP! HELP! HELLLLGGRRAHH...
DIE! HA! HA! HA! DIE! DIE!

NOW I MUST GET RID OF THE BODY! WHERE? AH... I WILL DIG A CRYPT BENEATH THE VERY GREEN WHERE MALACHI DIED... BENEATH THE GREEN WILL BE A VAULT OF CORPSES...!!
13

ALMOST FINISHED...NO ONE WILL EVER NOTICE THE TRAP DOOR WHEN IT IS CLOSED...
HEH! HEH! DIG IT WELL! DIG IT LONG AND DEEP... THERE WILL BE OTHERS TO FILL THE UNHALLOWED GRAVE YOU MAKE!

SLEEP WELL, MY BEAUTY... HEH! HEH! NO ONE WILL EVER FIND YOU...OH, MY HEAD! WHY DO I DO THIS?

IT IS DONE! NO ONE WOULD NOTICE ANYTHING ABOUT THE GREEN...
NO ONE MY BROTHER...NO ONE BUT YOU... AND I...
13

AND THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF IT, DETECTIVE JOYCE! MALACHI THIRSTED FOR BLOOD AND MURDER... HE DROVE ME ON!
YOU... YOU'RE INSANE! COME ON... I'M TAKING YOU IN!
13

NO! LET ME FINISH... I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT THE OTHERS... SEE! SEE! THERE BEHIND YOU! MALACHI! SEE HIM! HE DOES EXIST! I AM NOT CRAZY!
WHERE! WHA-! WHEWWW... YOU GAVE ME A SCARE! THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

KILL! KILL! KILL! KILL!
YOU DO NOT SEE HIM OR HEAR HIM! BUT I DO!

"HOW HE LAUGHS WHEN HE SEES THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER OF HORROR! A FIEND LAUGHING IN THE CHARNEL PIT! YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD... AS I HEAR HIM NOW..."
STOP! STOP! I'M GOING MAD... I CAN'T STAND IT NO LONGER!
HEE! HEE! HEEEYAAARRGGHAH! HAH! HA! HA!

YOU-YOU MADMAN! I HAVE NEVER HEARD SUCH A TALE OF HORROR! COME ON... WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW...

BUT WE CAN NOT GO YET... YOU DO NOT UNDER-STAND...

OH, NO YOU DON'T! DON'T TRY TO GET AWAY... I'LL SHOOT!
DON'T YOU HEAR THAT GROANING? THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK HERE! I DON'T THINK THAT TRAVERS IS DEAD! I BURIED HIM ALIVE...
MOOOAANN!

SEE! I-I TOLD YOU... L-LOOK!! THE CRYPT IS OPENING!

I... COME... FOR... YOU... FINNEGAN...
EEEYARRGGH! NO! NO! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST, TRAVERS!

I... MUST... GET... OUT... OHHH... MY HEART... ARGGH...
I'LL KILL YOU TRAVERS! EEEYAHHH! HAH! KILL YOU!
FINNEGAN! COME BACK HERE! DON'T TOUCH TRAVERS!

THE... DOOR... IS OPEN! I'M FREE! OHH... MY HEART... ARGGGH!
I'LL KILL--NO! YOU'VE TIPPED THE FLAG TOWARD ME... I CAN'T STOP! NO!

NOW... I... DIE-- BUT I'VE KILLED YOU... TOO... ARRRGGHH!
NO! NO! YAAAAA!

EEYAH! HAH! HA! RUN DETECTIVE, RUN... NO LIVING THING CAN ESCAPE THE TOUCH OF DOOM!
GOOD LORD! IT--IT'S INCREDIBLE! WHAT'S THAT... AM I GOING CRAZY TOO... OR DO I HEAR SOMETHING LAUGHING...

NO! I'M IMAGINING THINGS! AM I INSANE... IT'S HORRIBLE... DREADFUL!!
COME... TO... ME... COOOMMMME...

NO! NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T COME NEAR ME! YOU'RE DEAD! DEAD! NO! YAAAAAA...

NOW YOU WILL BE MY SLAVE OF VENGEANCE... TOGETHER WE WILL KILL MANKIND... KILL... KILL!
I-- I DON'T WANT TO... BUT... I CAN'T HELP MYSELF... YES... I OBEY...!!!
13

SLOWLY, THE BLACK POISON OF EVIL FILLED JOYCE'S MIND AND HE HIMSELF BECAME THE VICTIM OF THE SHADOWY FORCES OF DEATH!
HA! HA! HA! YES... KILL! KILL! WE WILL DESTROY THE WORLD... EEEYAHAHA! YAHHH! HAH! HA! HA!

YESSS... YOU ARE MINE NOW... THE DEMONS FROM THE GRAVE HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING MEN TO WORK FOR THEM AS LONG AS EVIL EXISTS... HA! HA! HA!
THE END

WALTER BOLSO LOVED THE CIRCUS, BUT HE WAS NEVER GIVEN A CHANCE TO STAR... EXCEPT AS A FREAK OR A SIDE-ATTRACTION! THEN VIOLENT LOVE AND HATEFUL JEALOUSY DROVE HIM TO WRATHFUL FURY...

the GEEK

KILL HIM! BASH HIS HEAD IN!

RIP HIM TO PIECES! DESTROY THIS TERRIBLE CREATURE!

HOW CAN I TELL THEM WHO I AM? I WANT TO LIVE... LIVE! NO! THEY CANNOT STIFLE ME THIS WAY! THIS IS MY HOUR! NO--NO!

WALTER BOLSO WAS A GOOD, RESPECTED MAN! HE WAS HAPPY AS THE TOWN BLACKSMITH...

I'LL FINISH EARLY TONIGHT! NOT EVEN THE IRON CAN WITHSTAND MY BLOWS! THEN I'LL ENTERTAIN THE VILLAGERS!

HE LOVED TO SHOW OFF HIS STRENGTH...

...AND NOW I SHALL LIFT FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS OVER MY HEAD... THERE!

YOU'RE GREAT, WALTER!

BOLSO LOVED CIRCUS LIFE! EVEN WHEN A CARNIVAL ARRIVED IN TOWN, HE WENT INTO ECSTACY...

COME ONE AND ALL TO THE CARNIVAL!

HOORAY!

AH! YES, BOLSO... THE CARNIVAL IS FOR YOU, THIS AFTERNOON!

LATER...

LOOK, WALTER! HE CAN'T LIFT AS MUCH AS YOU!

BAH! HE IS WEAK--

THAT NIGHT, WALTER BOLSO HAD EXTRA WORK TO DO! AS HE WORKED, A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WATCHED HIM FROM THE DOORWAY...

COME ON! I CAN AMAZE YOU IN MY SMITHSHOP!

WALTER IS RIGHT! HE IS THE STRONGEST MAN THAT WE HAVE EVER SEEN!

YOU! AREN'T *YOU* THE GIRL FROM THE CARNIVAL?

YES! I'VE COME TO ADMIRE YOU!

--LIKE *THIS*, FOR INSTANCE! AND THERE'S MORE, WALTER BOLSO!

W-WHAT! I--I HAVE *NEVER* BEEN KISSED BEFORE BY ANY GIRL! I AM TOO *UGLY!*

TO ME, YOU ARE VERY *HANDSOME!* FOLLOW ME...THAT IS IF YOU DARE!

WALTER BOLSO FEARS NO MAN ALIVE! I *DO* DARE, BY HEAVEN...

SHE RAN INTO THE NIGHT, A RADIANT IMAGE OF ALL THAT WALTER BOLSO HAD YEARNED FOR...

HERE IS WHERE WE SHALL BE SAFE FROM PRYING EYES, DEAREST... NOW COME TO ME!

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL-- AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED-- OW-W!

HOW DUMB CAN YOU BE?

HA! HA! HERE IS OUR GEEK! THAT INJECTION WAS ENOUG TO CHANGE TEN MEN INTO GIBBERING IDIOTS!

PERHAPS, MARLA! BUT THIS GUY IS LIKE A BEAR! HE WILL SURVIVE!

WHAT A FOOL HE WAS! NOW HE WILL NOT BRAG ABOUT HIS STRENGTH AGAIN!

NO! NOT WHEN THIS CHEMICAL SHALL EAT INTO HIS BRAIN, LEAVING HIM A SENSELESS SLAVE WITH NO WILL! HA, HA!

SO WALTER BOLSO BECAME, A DREADED GEEK--A HALF-MAN, HALF-BEAST! WEEK FOLLOWED TERRIBLE WEEK...

OOOOH-- SEE THE FUNNY "MONKEY" HEE, HEE...

I BET HE BITES IF YOU LOOK AT HIM LONG! HA!

BUT BOLSO HAD FOUND A STRANGE PEACE WITHIN HIMSELF, AS HUMILIATED AS HE HAD BEEN, HE NEVER STOPPED LOVING MALICIOUS MARLA...

--SO YOU LIKE ME TO SCRATCH YOUR EARS, EH... MY BRUTE? HA! HA!

PLEASE, MARLA... I-I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ATTRACTION IN THE CIRCUS LIKE THEODORE!

YOU ARE ATTRACTION ENOUGH!

I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PLEASE *YOU*, MARLA! I *DON'T* LIKE THEODORE

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK SO FOUL OF MY LOVE?

OHH--YOU STRUCK ME! I WHO HAVE LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG MARLA!

LOVE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE? KISS ME, THEODORE!

WITH PLEASURE, MY PET... HA! HA!

NO-NO-- *NO!*

Y-YOU WILL NOT MOCK ME ANYMORE! I *LOVE* YOU, *MARLA!* NO ONE WILL TAKE YOU FROM ME!

EEEE! WATCH OUT! HE'S BREAKING OUT OF HIS CAGE!

THERE! HE WILL NOT MOVE AGAIN! THIS CHEMICAL WILL COMPLETELY DESTROY HIM!

URRGH-H!

OHHH-I--AM-- GROWING...

...GROWING...

--GROWING!! HA, HA, HA...

EEEEE! HELP! HELP!

THE BRAIN IS A POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH MAN KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT! IT HAD MODIFIED THE CHEMICAL INTO A DIFFERENT FLUID... TURNING BOLSO INTO A ROARING GIANT!

SCREAM OUT YOUR LAST, THEODORE! NOW YOU WILL PERFORM FOR ME!

YA-AAAH!

AS FOR YOU, MARLA! YOU WILL BEG AND PLEAD WITH ME FOR YOUR MISERABLE LIFE-- AS I PLEADED FOR MY LOVE! HA! HA! HA!

NO! NO! EEEEE!!

NOW I AM THE GREATEST MARVEL OF THE AGES! COME ONE... COME ALL! SEE ME PERFORM FEATS OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH! HA, HA...

WATCH IT, MEN! KILL THAT... THAT MONSTER!

THAT'S IT! BASH HIS HEAD IN! HE KILLED MARLA AND THEODORE! WHERE'S THE GEEK?

WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

LET ME GO! ARRRGH!

SHARP PAINS DROVE THROUGH HIS HUGE FRAME AND HE FELT THE BLOOD TRICKLING DOWN HIS CHEST... AND THEN HE UNDERSTOOD IT ALL!

FLEE! I MUST RUN TO WHERE I BELONG! ARRRGHH!

THERE HE GOES! AFTER HIM!

MY-MY ANVIL... M-MY HOME... MY HAPPINESS! AT LAST MY HEAD IS CLEAR... I CAN AT LEAST DIE AS A M-M-MAN!

THE END

DEADMAN'S RING

WHO SHALL SAY HOW MUCH THE DEAD CAN INFLUENCE THE LIVING? GEORGIE PRICE WAS A WONDERFUL FIGHTER, NO ARGUMENT ON THAT! BUT AS A PERSON HE WAS ROTTEN! WAS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM ONLY AN ACCIDENT?

AND HE DID! HE WOUND UP CHAMP OF HIS CLASS!

HE'S A DIRTY FIGHTER!

YEAH! BUT SOME SCRAPPER! SAYS HE'S GONNA TURN PRO!

ALL THOSE LOW BLOWS--YET HE WINS ON KNOCKOUTS!

GEORGIE PRICE KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS! HE WAS THE SAME WITH THE GIRLS!

SURE, I'M TURNIN' PRO! I'LL BE THE WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP IN A YEAR!

HE'S JUST A CONCEITED PUG!

ANNE WILSON WAS MADLY ATTRACTED TO GEORGIE...

...AND I'M GONNA SPECIALIZE IN ONE ROUND KNOCKOUTS

OH, YEAH?

I MUST MAKE HIM NOTICE ME!

MANAGERS SHIED AWAY FROM GEORGIE! BUT JAKE MELLON TOOK A CHANCE!

MANAGING HIM WON'T ADD TO MY POPULARITY!

YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY, MELLON!

GEORGIE'S DIRTY TACTICS DIDN'T GET BY SO WELL, NOW!

I'M PENALIZING HIM FOR LOW BLOWS!

HE'S TAKIN' THE ROUND AWAY FROM YOU!

GOOD!

SO WHAT!

AND GEORGIE WON BY A KNOCKOUT!

EIGHT-NINE--TEN!

IT WAS A GRIM QUIRK OF FATE THAT MADE A GIRL LIKE ANNE WILSON GET MIXED UP WITH A FELLOW LIKE GEORGIE PRICE...

OH, GEORGIE, YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL!

SURE, KID! I'LL BE READY TO TAKE ON THE CHAMP NEXT SUMMER!

FOR A WHILE, SHE INTERESTED GEORGIE... THEN HE TIRED OF HER!

GEORGIE, DEAR... ARE WE GOING TO BE MARRIED SOON?

GOTTA DUMP THIS FOOL KID-- HANGING ON MY NECK!

AND ANOTHER NIGHT...

WHY DID YOU TELL JAKE WE WERE ENGAGED?

WHY, GEORGIE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU--YOU SAID...

GEORGIE SAW THE BRINK BEHIND THE GIRL... HE COULD HAVE WARNED HER... BUT...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HER... THAT CLIFF... BEHIND HER... I'LL...

GEORGIE! T-THAT FUNNY... ANGRY LOOK YOU HAVE! N-NO... STAY BACK...

SUDDENLY...

AIIEE!!

STOP... YOU FOOL!!

GEORGIE WASN'T ACCUSED OF ANYTHING! A MONTH LATER, MR. JAKE MELLON GOT HIM HIS BIG CHANCE... A FIGHT WITH ROLLIE WILLS, THE CHAMP! BUT...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THOSE CURTAINS? NO WIND... YET...?

ANOTHER NIGHT...

...THAT DOOR--? WHAT M-MADE IT OPEN?

THEN ONE DAY...

...WHAT'S THAT SHADOW??

ONE DAY DOING ROADWORK...

WHA--? WHAT'S THAT? ANNE! I'M GOIN' NUTS... SEEIN' THINGS!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GEORGIE?

GEORGIE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, BUT THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT, IN GEORGIE'S DRESSING ROOM...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WIN THIS FIGHT! I WON'T LET YOU!

WON'T LET ME? HA-HA! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT MY IMAGINATION!

GEORGIE HAD A PLAN TO MAKE SURE HE'D WIN!

...HERE COMES THE BOY NOW... GOOD...

HERE'S A FIVE SPOT, KID! TELL MR. MELLON I WANT TO SEE HIM!

SURE, MR. PRICE!

A GLASS OF MILK FOR THE CHAMP! GEORGIE KNEW HE ALWAYS INSISTED ON HAVING IT!

...I'LL PUT A SEDATIVE IN HIS MILK... JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM A LITTLE DOPEY!

YOU CAN'T DO IT, GEORGIE! I WON'T LET YOU!

WAS IT ONLY CHANCE THAT THE BOY CAME BACK SUDDENLY, AND...

I BETTER TAKE THE CHAMP HIS TRAY FIRST! THEN I'LL GET MR. MELLON FOR YOU!

OH, WELL, I'LL KNOCK THE CHAMP OUT ANYHOW!

WHO CAN SAY HOW MUCH THE DEAD INFLUENCES THE LIVING? EVERY SEAT WAS SOLD BY FIGHT NIGHT! BUT ACROSS TOWN...

I-- I DON'T THINK I CAN GO, HARRY! I FEEL MISERABLE--

SO DO I! LET'S SKIP IT!

WE'LL PUT ON THE TV!
OKAY! WE WERE ONLY GOING TO SEE THAT PRICE FELLOW GET KNOCKED OUT! HOPE HE LOSES!

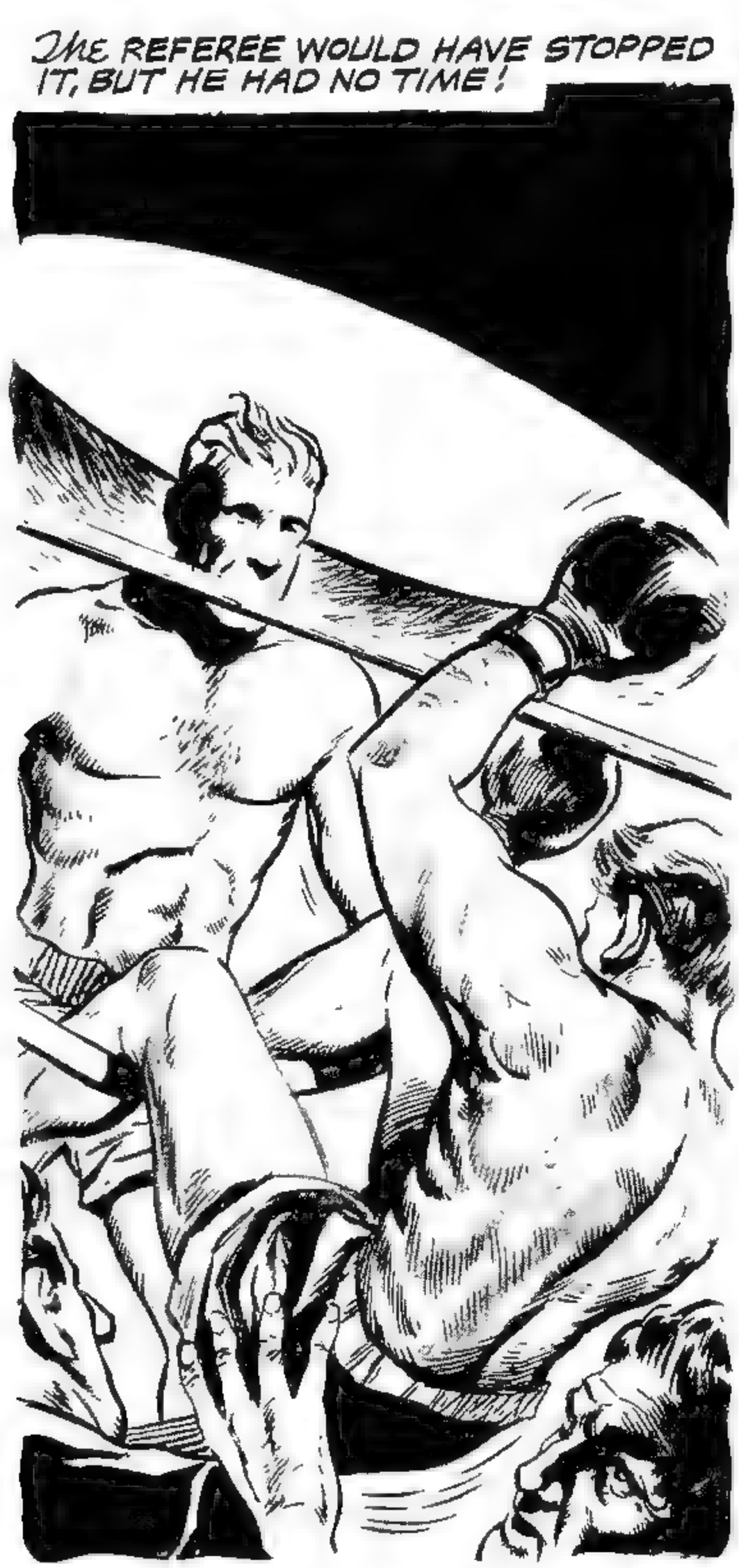
AND AT RINGSIDE...
...AND NOW...FIFTEEN ROUNDS FOR THE WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD...

NO ONE SAW THAT DIM, GLOWING SHAPE THERE IN THE CROWD--NO ONE BUT GEORGIE PRICE...
THERE'S THAT THING AGAIN... WHA--?
GEORGIE! WATCH HIS LEFT!
YOU CAN'T WIN THIS FIGHT, I WON'T LET YOU GEORGIE!

UGH!
HE'S IN TROUBLE!
CHAMP'S GOT 'IM!
COVER UP, GEORGIE!
YOU CAN'T WIN, GEORGIE!
THE BELL SAVED GEORGIE...
SHUT UP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, GEORGIE?
...THAT... THAT THING! IF IT WOULD ONLY LEAVE ME ALONE!

ROUND TWO! VAINLY GEORGIE TRIED TO HANG ON, BUT...
HE'S GOT HIM! WOW!
IT'S THE END NOW, GEORGIE!

WHAT'S HOLDIN' HIM UP?
THE REFEREE OUGHT TO STOP IT!
IT HAS TO BE DONE! YOU DESERVE IT, GEORGIE!


THE REFEREE WOULD HAVE STOPPED IT, BUT HE HAD NO TIME!

EIGHT... NINE... TEN...
A KNOCKOUT! SUITS ME FINE!

And THEN THE RING PHYSICIAN EXAMINED HIM...
HE'S DEAD! BRAIN CONCUSSION!

AND AS THE AWED CROWD LEFT, NO ONE SAW THE TWO DIM SHAPES AMONG THEM...
KID, I CAN SEE NOW HOW WRONG I WAS!
DON'T WORRY, DEAR, IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!

THE END

THE HORROR DOLLS

THAT MAN! THERE WAS A DOLL LIKE HIM! AND YESTERDAY THE SWAMI STUCK A PIN IN THE LEG OF THAT DOLL!! TONIGHT... HE'S LOST THAT LEG...

I DIDN'T SEE HIM! I...

OHHH! MY LEG! ...MY LEG!

HIS LEG-- I'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE...

TERROR, SOUL-SEARING FEAR, A SENSE OF STRANGE EVIL POWERS INVADES THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO ARE TRAPPED BY THE SUPERNATURAL! THIS IS A STORY OF THE VOODOO DOLLS OF EVIL!

GOOD BYE, ANN! I'LL SEE YOU FRIDAY!

BEFORE TOM LEFT ANN, HE MADE ANOTHER DATE WITH HER!

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY TELEGRAM...

IS THIS ALL THE DATA ON BOOTH?

YEP--NO ONE EVER DID FIND WHERE HE GOT ALL HIS MONEY!

THE NEXT MORNING TOM VISITED THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...

YOU INVESTIGATED BUT NEVER LEARNED THE SOURCE OF HIS WEALTH...?

RIGHT! NOR DID HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS!

AND NOW-- IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS FOUR MEN FROM THE SAME SQUAD OF SOLDIERS HAVE DIED!...

I'LL ADMIT, WE'RE BAFFLED-- BOTH AS TO MOTIVE AND MURDER METHODS! THEY ALL LOOK LIKE ACCIDENTS!

THE D.A. LET SLIP THAT THEY'RE MURDERS! I'M ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING BIG!

IN AN ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE HIS THOUGHTS, TOM DECIDED TO WALK AWHILE...

HMM? WEIRD LOOKING STREET... NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE...

I HAVE A DATE WITH ANN, FRIDAY! I'LL BRING HER AN ANTIQUE PEWTER MUG PERHAPS...??

ORLANDO CURIOS

WHA... WHAT THE DEVIL ??

HAR... HARUUTH! COME, OH ELDER GODS OF ANCIENT PERSIA-- TAKE YOUR VENGEANCE...

WHAT GIBBERISH! UH OH! HE SEES ME! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
IT WAS THE PERSIAN SHOP OF ORLANDO, AND HE WAS PRACTICING VOODOO...

TOM RAN! THE NEXT DAY, AT THE LIBRARY HE SOUGHT MORE INFORMATION...
I HOPE THESE BOOKS HELPED YOU, MR. DECKER!
YES!
VOODOO RITES WERE PRACTICED IN ANCIENT PERSIA... I WONDER...

THEN SUDDENLY, ANOTHER ACCIDENT AND ANOTHER DEATH...
LOOKOUT!
SNAP
THAT BEAM! IT'S FALLING! LOOKOUT!
AIIEE

AS TOM RUSHED TO THE MURDERED MAN, HE SAW THAT THE VICTIM RESEMBLED THE DOLL IN THE CURIO SHOP...
...HE LOOKS LIKE THE DOLL WITH THE PIN STUCK INTO ITS HEART!

STUNNED, TOM WANDERED AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE GORY ACCIDENT...

I SEE, THE MAN KILLED IN THE ACCIDENT WAS ONE OF THE SOLDIERS IN BOOTH'S REGIMENT! I THINK IT'S VOODOO, MR. JONES!

TOM, YOU ALL RIGHT? VOODOO! ...SUCH DRIBBLE!

CITY EDITOR

TOM THEN HURRIED ON TO THE HOME OF ANN TALI...

IT'S INCREDIBLE! I'VE TOLD YOU ALL I KNOW AND NOTHING MAKES SENSE...

IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM! ANYWAY, BOOTH NEVER MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU... DON'T MEDDLE-- PROMISE ME?

WHY, ANN! MEN, HAVE BEEN KILLED! THIS IS MY JOB, MY DUTY...

PLEASE, TOM, KEEP AWAY FROM THAT DREADFUL PLACE...

I SENSE THAT THE ANTIQUE SHOP IS THE TRUE CENTER OF ALL THIS... BUT I'LL TRY TO KEEP AWAY!

YES, TOM MEANT TO KEEP AWAY... BUT THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH ORLANDO'S DOLLS WOULDN'T KEEP AWAY FROM TOM...

AAIIEEE!

SHOP

SCREECH

I'LL BET HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 721ST REGIMENT! AND HE'LL LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE DOLLS IN ORLANDO'S SHOP!

OHHH... MY LEG!!
I'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE...
THAT DOES IT! THE SWAMI AND HIS DOLLS DID THIS! I KNOW IT'S TRUE EVEN THOUGH I DON'T BELIEVE IN BLACK MAGIC...I KNOW I PROMISED ANN, BUT THIS IS THE STORY OF THE YEAR!
MD

IT NOW ALL TIES NEATLY TOGETHER... BUT HOW ?? WHY ??
ORLANDO CURIOS

WELCOME, TOM DECKER! ENTER! THE DOOR IS OPEN!
WHA...WHAT? HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

MY, YOU'VE HAD A BUSY DAY! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU...
HEH? WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?...

ENTER, YOU'LL KNOW ALL SOON...

FOOL! TO KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU KNOW AND THEN COME HERE...
THAT DOLL... ANN! THIS DEVIL MUST PLAN...

NOW--KNOW ALL!! LEARN WHY I, A PRIEST OF SARAT, AM SWORN TO SEE VENGEANCE UPON BOOTH AND ALL HIS CLAN...

THEN HE UNFOLDED HIS BIZARRE TALE OF VENGEANCE! DURING WORLD WAR II A GROUP OF MEN WERE EXPLORING FOR OIL IN ANCIENT PERSIA...

CAPTAIN BOOTH--WE NEED OIL AND YOU MUST FIND IT! DEFINITE TRACES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN SARAT!

OKAY, COLONEL--IF IT'S THERE WE'LL FIND IT!

BOOTH RECEIVED PERMISSION TO DRILL FOR OIL FROM THE SHAH OF SARAT...

THANK YOU, SHAH ILARDI! OUR ARMY NEEDS OIL VERY BADLY! YOUR REWARDS WILL BE GREAT!

YES, SAHIB, YOU MAY DRILL, BUT RESPECT THE LOCAL CUSTOMS, I URGE YOU! ESPECIALLY THE CEMETARIES!

BOOTH FOUND OIL--PLENTY OF IT...

OIL-- MEN-- WE DID IT! NOW LET'S TRY THAT CEMENTARY! I'LL BET WE FIND OIL AND GOLD! THEIR PEOPLE ALWAYS PUT GOLD IN THEM!

THEN A WARNING CAME...

NO, I BEG YOU, MR. BOOTH! DISTURB NOT OUR CEMETARY! HERE ARE ENTOMBED OUR ANCIENT GODS, DO NO DISTURB THEM!

I BET YOU GOT GOLD IN THOSE TOMBS!

BUT, THIS WARNING WAS IGNORED...

LOOK WHAT WE HIT--GOLD--OUR FORTUNE'S MADE!

BOOTH, REMEMBER THE OLD MAN'S WARNING? WE'RE DOING EVIL...

BOSH--WHO CARES! LOOK--VOODOO DOLLS, GOLD--JEWELRY!

OUR GODS CANNOT REST WITHOUT THEIR VOODOO DOLLS! THE SARAT PRIEST WILL TAKE VENGEANCE UPON YOU MONEY-MAD INFIDELS... YOU WILL BE FOLLOWED BY US UNTIL VENGEANCE IS OURS...

AND I... I AM A PRIEST OF SARAT! OUR MAGIC DOLLS HAVE BROUGHT DOOM TO BOOTH AND THE MEN OF HIS DETAIL! MEDDLERS LIKE YOU MUST DIE!

SUDDENLY, A LAMP OVERTURNED, FIRE BROKE OUT AS TOM KICKED UP AT THE WEAPON...

TOM ESCAPED AS THE CURIO SHOP EXPLODED IN A FURY OF ROARING FLAMES...

ANN... THE DOLL... HER DOLL! ORLANDO HAS A DOLL LIKE HER...

MOMENTS LATER, TOM BLURTED OUT HIS INCREDIBLE TALE TO ANN!

WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU IS THE TRUTH SCREWY AS IT SOUNDS!

...YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER! ...THAT DOLL... YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THEY PLAN TO KILL YOU--

KILL ME?... DANGER? NOT I-I BEGGED YOU NOT TO MEDDLE! DO YOU THINK THE GODS WOULD SEND BUT ONE PRIEST OF SARAT TO SEEK THEIR VENGEANCE?

YES... HA, HA, HA... I TOO AM ADEPT IN THE EVIL ARTS OF THE DEATH DOLLS OF SARAT... A PRIESTESS! I COULD HAVE LOVED YOU... BUT YOU HAD TO MEDDLE! YOU SEE... I ALSO HAVE A VOODOO DOLL... YOUR DOLL! NOW, YOU MUST DIE!

OHHHH!

BUT TOM DECKER SANK INTO THE DARK WATERS OF DEATH... ANN TOO BECAME THE VICTIM OF HER VOODOO CULT... FOR SHE HAD BEEN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LOVE THE MEDDLER!

MR. JONES, LOOK! TWO DOLLS WITH PINS STUCK IN THEM!

HE SAID IT WAS VOODOO, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM!

The End

THE TOMB

THE GHOST OF THE CRUEL, BLOOD THIRSTY INSANE ROMAN EMPEROR, ***NERO***, IS SUPPOSED TO HAUNT THE PINCIAN HILL IN ROME. UNDER THIS HILL WAS THE TOMB OF THE DOMITI, HIS FAMILY, AND IT WAS HERE HE WAS BURIED. THEY SAY THAT WHEN NERO APPEARS AND PLAYS HIS VIOLIN ***HE CALLS BACK THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HELPED HIM IN HIS EVIL CAREER.***

IT IS VERY NICE OF YOU TO BE SO HOSPITABLE TO A STRANGER.
YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE A STRANGER TO ME, SIGNORE. I AM VALONIA. VALONIA DIRITTO!
VILLA DIRITTO

WELCOME TO THE VILLA DIRITTO, SIGNORE!

HEY— WHAT'S ALL THIS?

VALONIA! WHO ARE THESE GUYS? WHAT'S THE GAME?
YOU ARE VERY BRAVE, MARK WAYNE — BUT YOUR STRUGGLE IS USELESS!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

THAT TAKES CARE OF ALL BUT THIS ONE — BUT WHERE DID THEY GO? THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THEM BUT THE ARMOUR!

I'LL HAVE A LOOK BEHIND THIS THING— GREAT SCOTT! A SKELETON!

I DON'T GET IT! AND NOW HE'S DISINTEGRATED —JUST A HEAP OF ARMOUR LIKE THE REST!
THERE ARE MORE— MANY MORE, MY BRAVE ONE! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CONQUER THEM ALL?

TOO MANY— MY HEAD'S STARTING TO SPIN!

TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY HIS ATTACKERS, MARK WENT DOWN. WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS...
WHAT KIND OF A NIGHTMARE IS THIS?

THIS IS MY FATHER— DIRITTO!
WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU! DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME, MARCUS?
I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE, MISTER— AND I HOPE I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN! AND THE NAME IS MARK— MARK WAYNE!
M

YOU WERE MARCUS WHEN YOU PUT THIS BRAND ON MY FOREHEAD— AND ONE LIKE IT UPON THE BROW OF MY DAUGHTER! YOU WERE MARCUS— A RELATIVE OF THE HATED NERO!
M

AGAIN, MARCUS— YOUR BRAND!
DIRITTO, IT LOOKS LIKE A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY! I NEVER SAW EITHER OF YOU BEFORE TONIGHT!
M

DIRITTO ISSUED AN ORDER TO A SINISTER CREATURE WHO STOOD BESIDE A FLAMING FORGE...
OUR GUEST NEEDS HIS MEMORY REFRESHED, BEEL!
YES, MASTER...

A LITTLE TRIP FOR YOU, MARCUS!
NO — NO!

THE MAD, WILD, DIZZY SPEED OF THE WHEEL, AND HIS BODY TURNING WITH IT... THE SOUND OF HIS OWN SCREAMS...
EEEE EEEE

AND THROUGH THE SCREAMS, THE STRANGE, SCRAPING SOUND OF A VIOLIN THAT HE HAD HEARD BEFORE...

THEN SUDDENLY A SCENE APPEARED...
A NEW BUNCH OF SLAVES, MARCUS. SOME OF THEM FOR THE GLADIATORIAL GAMES — SOME FOR THE LIONS TO TEAR APART — OTHERS TO BURN IN MY GARDEN TO LIGHT MY PARTY TONIGHT!

IF THERE ARE ANY YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF — PUT YOUR BRAND UPON THEM AND KEEP THEM!

THANK YOU, MY COUSIN, YOU ARE MOST GENEROUS. I WILL SEND THEM TO THE DUNGEONS!

NO... NO... IT COULDN'T BE... AND YET... I SEEM TO SEE IT ALL NOW... AND MORE...

YOU HAVE GREAT BEAUTY! TATUI — BRAND HER!
NO! NO!
ARROGANT ROMAN! WE WILL DIE RATHER THAN BE ROMAN SLAVES AND WEAR YOUR BRAND!

YOU WILL WEAR MY BRAND FIRST, AND THEN DIE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE, OLD MAN!

LIVING OR DEAD — THE TWO OF YOU NOW BELONG TO ME!
OHHH!

WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, MARCUS, WHEN OUR POSITIONS WILL BE REVERSED! THE BRAND OF MARCUS WILL BE WIPED OUT BY THE BRAND OF DIRITTO!

IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT WE SHALL EVER MEET AGAIN IN THIS LIFE, DIRITTO — BECAUSE YOUR PROUD TONGUE HAS SPOKEN YOUR OWN DOOM!

I SHOULD LET THE LIONS TEAR YOU APART— BUT NOW I SHALL RESERVE THAT FOR YOUR DAUGHTER!
MY TONGUE ALSO SPEAKS YOUR DOOM, MARCUS... WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN SOME FUTURE TIME!

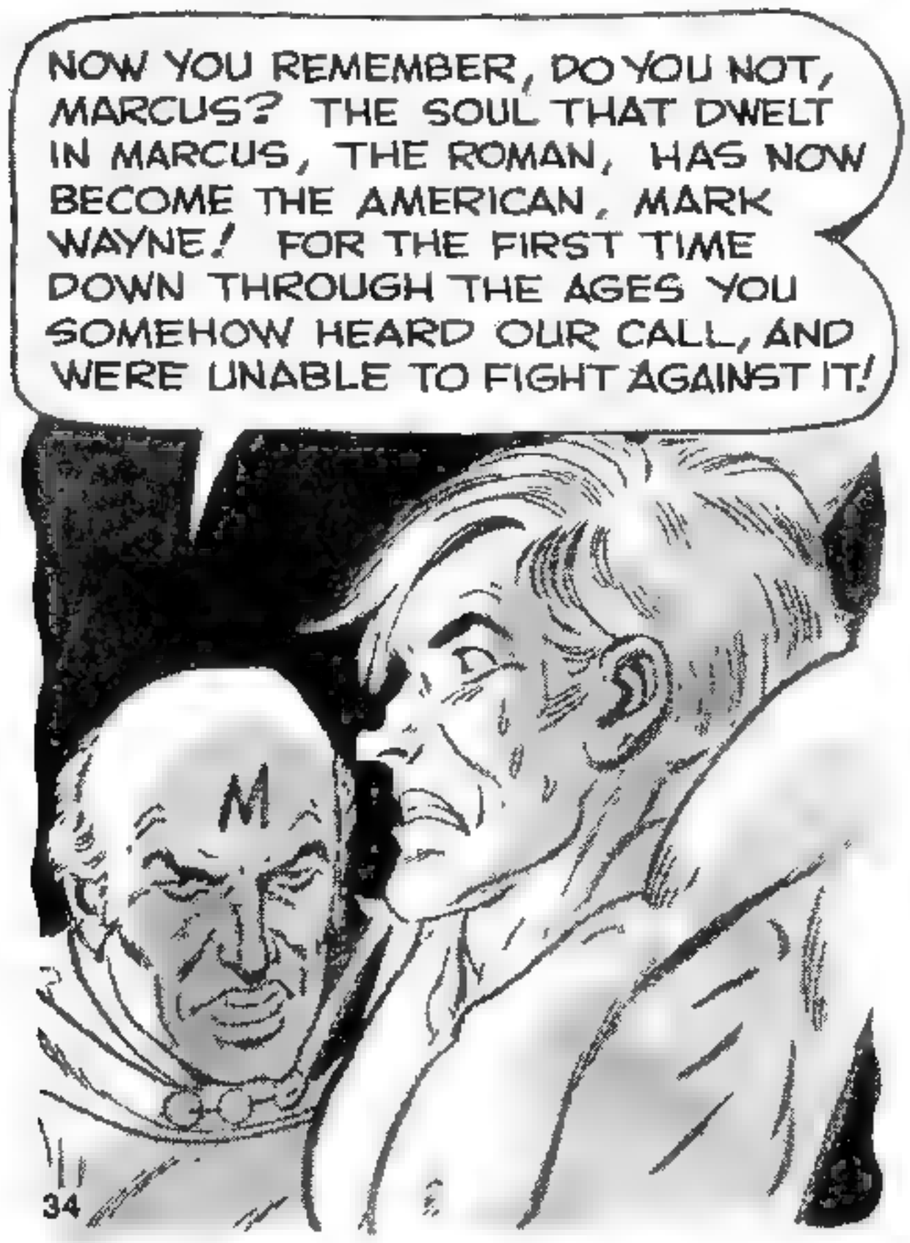
MY FATHER'S DYING WORDS WILL COME TRUE, MARCUS!
AFTER HER, TATUI! IF NERO EVER HEARS THAT A SLAVE GIRL OUTWITTED ME, I WILL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!

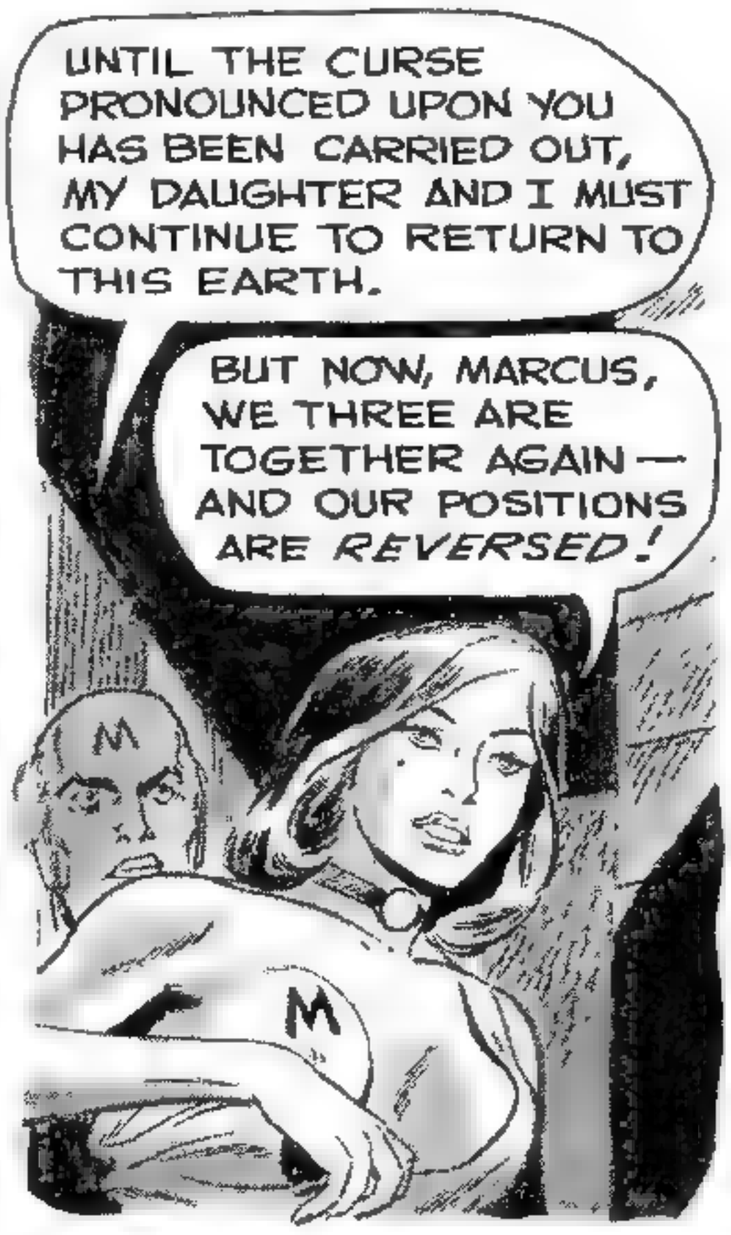
SHE WILL TRAP HERSELF IN THE TOWER!

DO NOT BE A FOOL, VALONIA! DOWN THERE ARE THE LIONS!
I WILL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF THROWING ME TO THEM, MARCUS!

EEEKKKHHH!!

THE DESPERATE SCREAM OF THE GIRL SUDDENLY BECAME HIS OWN AGAIN ...
AIEEEEE!


NOW YOU REMEMBER, DO YOU NOT, MARCUS? THE SOUL THAT DWELT IN MARCUS, THE ROMAN, HAS NOW BECOME THE AMERICAN, MARK WAYNE! FOR THE FIRST TIME DOWN THROUGH THE AGES YOU SOMEHOW HEARD OUR CALL, AND WERE UNABLE TO FIGHT AGAINST IT!


UNTIL THE CURSE PRONOUNCED UPON YOU HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT, MY DAUGHTER AND I MUST CONTINUE TO RETURN TO THIS EARTH.
BUT NOW, MARCUS, WE THREE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN — AND OUR POSITIONS ARE REVERSED!

NOW YOU SHALL WEAR THE MARK OF DIRITTO!
NO! NO! NO!

THE GRINNING, LEERING FIGURE CAME NEARER AND NEARER...

HEEE... HEEE...

NO... IT'S **CRAZY**! MAYBE I WAS MARCUS IN THAT DARK AGE SO LONG AGO... BUT WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO PAY FOR **HIS** CRIMES? I'M DIFFERENT! I'VE CHANGED! THOSE WERE BARBAROUS, UNCIVILIZED TIMES!

A DOOM ONCE PRONOUNCED MUST BE FULFILLED... NOW AT LAST, MY DAUGHTER AND I SHALL FIND **REST**!

AHYAAAAAA

YOU SCREAM FOR JUST A MOMENT, MARCUS... BUT NERO HAS SCREAMED FOR ETERNITY! ONLY WHEN HE COMES BACK TO LURE OTHER SOULS TO THE VENGEANCE WAITING FOR THEM DOES HE HAVE ANY REST!

THEN THE SCREAMS FADED... AND WHEN MARK WAYNE AWOKE...

I THOUGHT I HEARD A SCREAM! LOOK!

WHAT IS THIS?

A ***BRAND***! ON HIS FOREHEAD! WHEN WILL THESE AMERICANS LEARN TO STAY OUT OF THIS PART OF TOWN!

THE NEXT DAY MARK WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO AMERICA...

IT ***WASN'T*** A NIGHTMARE! I'LL WEAR THIS BRAND THE REST OF MY LIFE! HOW SHALL I EXPLAIN IT? WHO WILL BELIEVE ME IF I TELL THEM OF MY HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE? ***AND YET IT HAPPENED!***

the END

THE SEA MONSTERS

THE STRANGE TALE OF THE AQUATIC MAMMALS THAT APPEAR TO BE HALF MAN AND HALF FISH!

FROM OUT OF THE OCEAN DEPTHS THEY SURGED, SCREAMING THEIR HYSTERIC CRIES OF MERTH. BUT EXPLORER MIC RAMSEY RODE OUT TO CONQUER THE DEEPER AND [illegible] THE SARGASSO SEA CAN STOP HIM NOW!!!

IN THE LIBRARY OF THE EXPLORER'S CLUB, PAUL RAYMOND SPEAKS WITH HIS ASSOCIATES!

IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC BETWEEN 20°-35° NORTH AND 30°-70° WEST ARE THE GREAT, WATERY WASTES OF THE SARGASSO SEA!

HMPH! A MASS OF SEAWEED AND TREACHEROUS WHIRLPOOLS!

NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT GREAT MIRACLES OF NATURE ARE THERE! I BEG OF YOU... HELP ME FORM JUST SUCH AN EXPEDITION!

PAUL... TRY TO BE SENSIBLE!

...THERE'S NOTHING BUT MILES OF THE SEAS! WASTE IN THE SARGASSO SEA!

COWARDS! COWARDS!

I'LL GO **MYSELF**! IF I CAN'T HAVE YOUR MONEY AND SUPPORT, I'LL FIND **ANOTHER** WAY!

A WEEK LATER, CAPTAIN BLAINE OF WHALER 11 MAKES A STRANGE ARRANGEMENT...

WITHIN FIFTY MILES OF THE SARGASSO SEA, CAPTAIN, SET ME ADRIFT IN YOUR POWER LAUNCH THERE!

HMM! SO YOU REQUEST THAT I STOP FOR ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS ON MY WAY BACK TO PICK YOU UP! BUT IF YOU ARE NOT THERE, I WILL **NOT** WAIT!

YOU ARE A MADMAN, MR. RAYMOND! BUT MONEY IS MONEY!

OF COURSE! I WILL SUPPLY ALL GAS AND PROVISIONS FOR THE LAUNCH! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!

THUSLY, WHEN THE WHALING VESSEL HAS CRUISED DEEP INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TOWARD THE HUNTING GROUNDS...

THERE'S YOUR ACCURSED SARGASSO SEA, MR. RAYMOND! REMEMBER, I WAIT ONLY ONE DAY FOR YOU!

YES, CAPTAIN! IT'S INTRIGUING! A MYSTIC SEA SWAMP! WHO KNOWS WHAT SECRETS ARE LOCKED IN ITS DEPTHS?

BEST OF LUCK, MR. RAYMOND!
THANK YOU...

BUT, I'LL NEED A MATE ON THIS TRIP... AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE IT!
WHA--? HE'S KNOCKED JOHNSON OVER THE HEAD!

COME BACK, YOU SWINE! I'LL HAVE YOU JAILED FOR THIS!
FOLLOW ME IN IF YOU DARE, CAPTAIN!

PAUL RAYMOND GUIDES HIS LAUNCH THROUGH THE MAZE OF EERIE WEEDS!
THE GUARD I PUT ABOUT THE PROPELLER IS KEEPING THE WEEDS FROM TANGLING IN HER!
OH-H-H! W-WHAT HAPPENED?

AS THE TWO MEN ARGUE THEY ARE BEING WATCHED BY UNSEEN THINGS!
YOU SHANGHAIED ME INTO THE SARGASSO SEA! I OUGHT TO KILL YOU, RAYMOND!
DON'T BE A FOOL, JOHNSON! WE NEED EACH OTHER TO SURVIVE!

SUDDENLY...
WHIRLPOOL! THERE IN THE WATER!
YIIII! A MONSTER L-LOOK!
W-WATER CREATURES! YOU'VE DOOMED US BOTH!

ROUND AND ROUND THE CRAFT SPINS HELPLESS IN THE MONSTER WHIRLPOOL!
YAAA! I'M BLACKING OUT!
M-MERCY M-MERCY!

AN END-LESS HOUR OF TORMENT DRAINS THE THREE MEN — THEN ...
GREAT HORRORS!! MR. RAYMOND... MR. RAYMOND!

I-IT CAME OUTA THE WATER!
GREAT HEAVENS!!

BULLETS DON'T PIERCE ITS SCALES! OUT THROUGH THE HATCH, JOHNSON!

MIGHT HOLD THAT CREATURE OFF!

SUDDENLY...
ARRRGH!
ARRRCKR!

YAH-HHH!
YAA-A!

THROUGH THE MURKY WATERS, THE TERRIFIED MEN ARE TOWED BY THE AQUA-HUMANS...
THEY'RE TAKING US TO THE LINER. I-IT'S THE JUPITER, IT VANISHED AT SEA TEN YEARS AGO!

WITHIN THE DERELICT LINER, PAUL RAYMOND AND HIS MATE GAZE UPON AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT...

W-WHAT MANNER OF CREATURES ARE YOU? W-WE MEAN NO HARM!

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE INVADED OUR WORLD! I AM CARPO THE RULER HERE!

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? HOW CAN THAT BE? A-ARE YOU CREATURES OF THE SEA...OR HUMANS?

CENTURIES AGO MARINERS LOST IN THE WHIRLPOOL OF THE SARGASSO SURVIVED! THEY LIVED FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE VESSELS DOOMED HERE! WE ARE THEIR DESCENDANTS...

G-GOOD HEAVENS! YOUR BODIES *CHANGED* OVER THE CENTURIES, MAKING YOU HALF AQUATIC, HALF *HUMAN*!

BUT WHAT OF *US*?

IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE! WE *MUST* GET OUT OF HERE!

THERE'S *NO* RETURN FROM SARGASSO CITY! COME...

HENCEFORTH, THIS SHALL BE YOUR HOME! A THOUSAND VESSELS FILLED WITH THE FOODS AND COMFORTS OF HUMANS TO ENJOY! IN TIME YOU WILL BECOME ONE OF US!

NO! NO!

DOOMED, THE PAIR ARE LED TO THEIR QUARTERS...

YOU WILL BE FREE TO ROAM! NO ONE CAN SWIM OUT THROUGH THE SARGASSO WHIRLPOOL... THERE IS *NO* ESCAPE!

A PT BOAT

NOW WE'RE *STUCK* HERE! AND HE SAID WE WILL ONE DAY BECOME ONE OF *THEM*!

TRY TO KEEP YOUR WITS! I'M AS ANXIOUS TO GET OUT AS YOU ARE!

I WAS AN OFFICER ON ONE OF THESE PT BOATS! IT HAS THE MOTOR THAT COULD POSSIBLY TAKE US THROUGH THAT WHIRLPOOL!

BUT HALF THE MACHINERY IS BROKEN OR MISSING!

YES BUT I KNOW MARINE ENGINES AND THERE ARE ENOUGH VESSELS IN THIS WATERY GRAVE TO REPLACE THE PARTS WE NEED!

HEY MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GO!

SECRETLY THE PAIR STARTED THEIR ESCAPE PROJECT...

I FOUND THE ENGINE COILS WE NEEDED ON AN OLD CARGO SHIP, JOHNSON!

GOOD! A TANKER WAS FULL OF THIS HIGH OCTANE GAS!

LOOK OUT! DUCK!

CARPO!

DAY AFTER DAY THEIR LABOR CONTINUES...

ALMOST DONE, JOHNSON! ANOTHER HOURS WORK TOMORROW AND WE'LL BE READY FOR THE BREAK THROUGH BACK TO CIVILIZATION!

YIII! YOUR BACK, RAYMOND! YOUR BACK!

M-MY CHEST! SOMETHING LIKE GREEN MOSS GROWING ON IT!

STEADY, JOHNSON! IT'S HAPPENING! WE'RE TURNING INTO AQUATIC CREATURES!

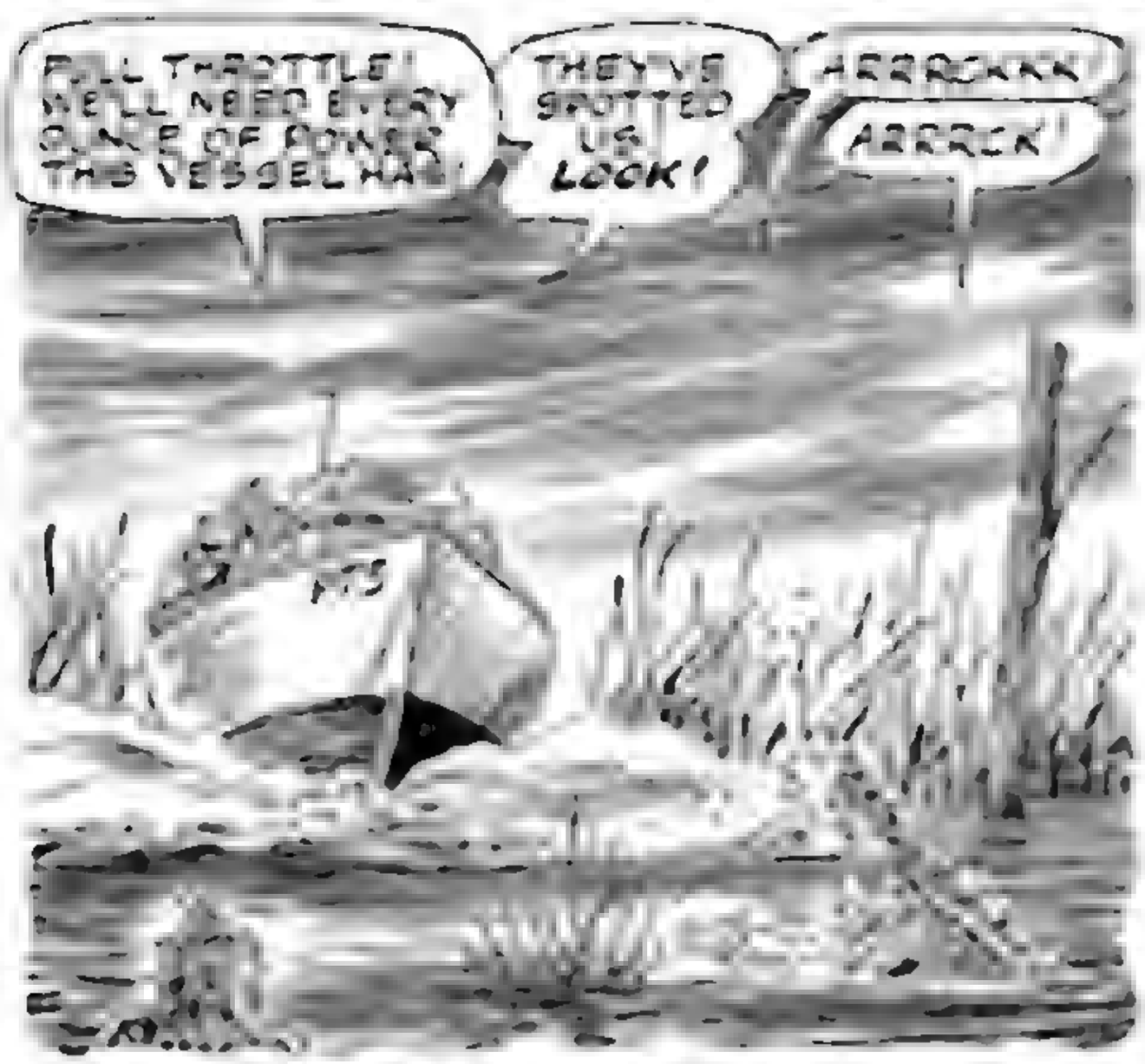
THE NEXT DAY...

WHAT A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE! I MUST BRING ONE OF THEM BACK AS PROOF! I MUST!

PT

OOOF!
WHA...?

YOU CRAZY? YOU DONE OUT A YOUR HEAD?
START THE ENGINE, JOHNSON! I'M BRING BACK A BANDIT! QUICK!


FULL THROTTLE! WE'LL NEED EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THIS VESSEL HAS!
THEY'VE SPOTTED US. LOOK!
ARRRCKKK!
ARRRCK!

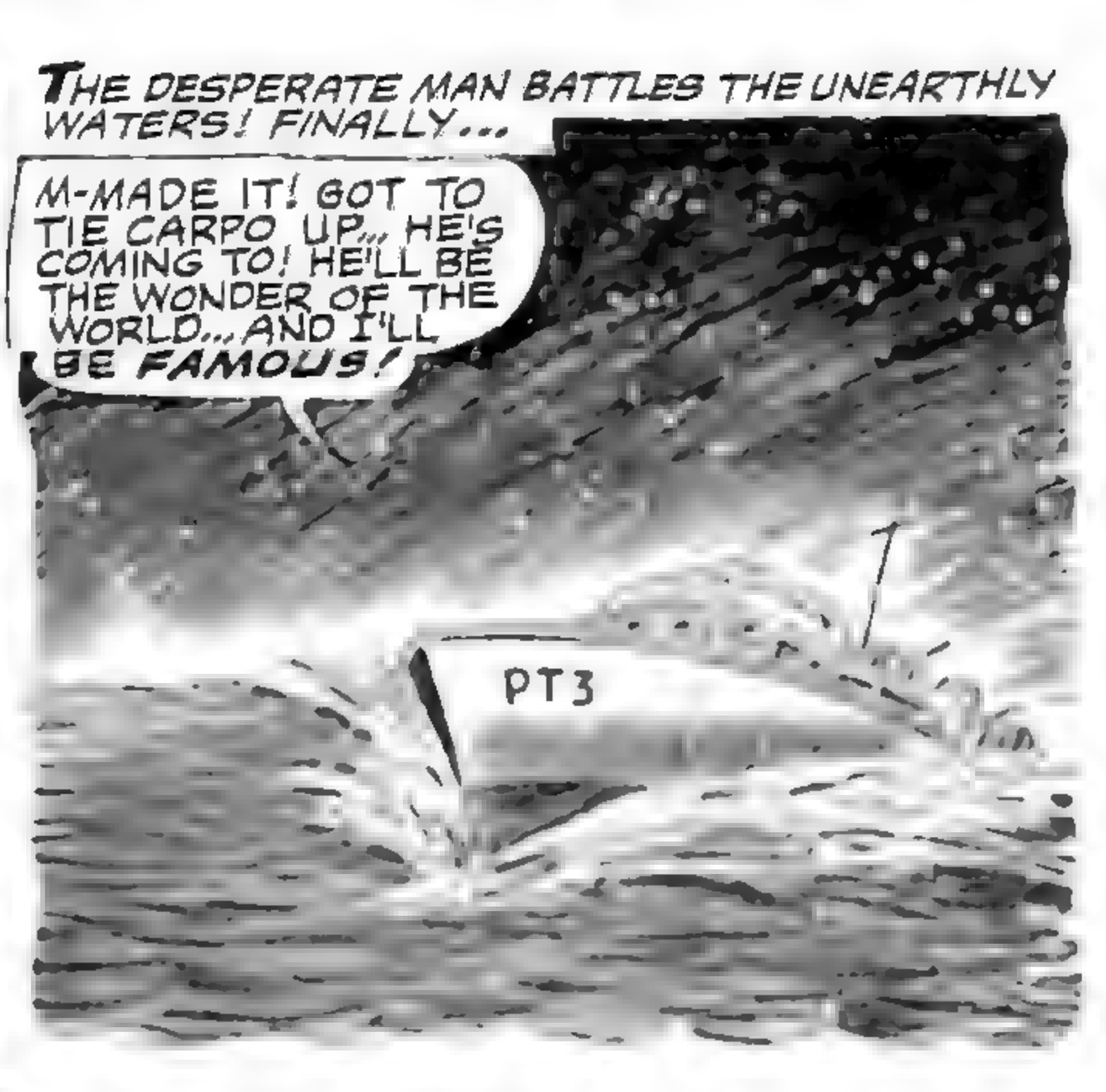
THEY WANT THEIR LEADER! THROW CARLO OVER THE SIDE, RANGOLI! HURRY!
NO! NO! I'VE GOT TO RETURN WITH HIM!
P

YOU BLASTED FOOL! I'LL THROW HIM IN MYSELF!
DON'T JOIN! DON'T JOIN IT OR I'LL KILL YOU!

SLOOOSH!
YAA!
GREAT SCOTT!

YIHIII!
JOHNSON! JOHNSON!

THEN, THE RAGING WATERS OF THE WHIRLPOOL CLUTCH THE VESSEL...
I'VE LEFT THEM BEHIND... NOW I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THE WHIRLPOOL...


THE DESPERATE MAN BATTLES THE UNEARTHLY WATERS! FINALLY...
M-MADE IT! GOT TO TIE CARPO UP... HE'S COMING TO! HE'LL BE THE WONDER OF THE WORLD... AND I'LL BE FAMOUS!
PT3

And A WEEK LATER, ARTHUR DUNSTER RECEIVES A STARTLING CALL AT THE EXPLORERS' CLUB...
I TELL YOU DUNSTER! I'VE COME BACK FROM THE SARGASSO SEA WITH A MONSTER! I'VE GOT HIM HERE IN THE WATER!
ALEX WON'T BE IN UNTIL LATER! I'LL LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR HIM AND START OUT!

SOON, DUNSTER ARRIVES AT HIS COLLEAGUE'S SHORE HOUSE...
NOW, PAUL, WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ALL ABOUT? DO YOU REALIZE THE AUTHORITIES ARE SEEKING YOU OUT FOR KIDNAPPING? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR SKIN?
NO MATTER! I'VE UNCOVERED A SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE!

GOOD GRIEF!
I FOUND HIM IN THE SARGASSO SEA... A RULER OF AQUATIC CREATURES, HALF MAN-- HALF FISH!

SUDDENLY...
ASTONISHING... WHA...?
DUNSTER! LOOK OUT!

YOU WERE A FOOL TO HAVE DEFILED THE SECRET OF THE SARGASSO!
STOP! STOP, CARPO!

YOUR OWN KIND WILL PUNISH YOU FOR THIS EVIL! FAREWELL!
NO! DON'T! COME BACK! YOU'VE GOT TO BE SHOWN TO THE WORLD!

THERE HE IS!
I'VE LOST HIM! LOST HIM!

PAUL! THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! I HAD TO INFORM THEM... GREAT HANNAH! Y-YOUR FACE!
I'VE BEEN TO THE SARGASSO SEA, ALEX! I CAPTURED A CREATURE THERE!
LOOK!

YOU FIEND! YOU'VE MURDERED DUNSTER!
NO! NO! IT WAS CARPO WHO DID IT! YOU SEE, I HAD HIM CHAINED IN THE WATER AND HE BROKE FREE!

YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! HE WAS A CREATURE FROM THE SARGASSO SEA! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF HIS HEAD, MR. LOTHER!

DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
WE TRIED OUR BEST TO WARN HIM AGAINST GOING TO THE SARGASSO!

AND IN THE DAYS TO COME, DR. RAYMOND'S CASE OF MURDER RAN THROUGH THE COUNTY MORGUE NIGHT AND DAY...
COME BACK, CARPO! COME BACK! PROVE TO THEM I'M NOT INSANE!
THERE HE GOES AGAIN! THERE'S NO HOPE OF A CURE!
NO... NO CURE FOR SOMETHING NO DOCTOR CAN EVER UNDERSTAND!

THE UNKNOWN

DEMONS! DON'T TAKE MY LIFE LIKE YOU DID THE OTHERS!

GOOD GRIEF... THAT MAN IS MAD!

IT WAS A COLORFUL EGYPTAIN GARMENT... AND TO ALL THOSE WHO WORE IT AN ANCIENT CURSE CAME TO LIFE TORMENTING ITS VICTIMS WITH SUCH INDESCRIBABLE HORROR THAT THEY WELCOMED DEATH WITH OPEN ARMS!

A FURTIVE FIGURE NERVOUSLY KNOCKS ON A TERRACE DOORWAY...

HURRY, MR. MASTERSON! OPEN THE DOOR QUICKLY... QUICKLY!

FINALLY, THE DOOR IS OPENED...

SO IT IS YOU, ANNAR! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR OF NIGHT?

MR. MASTERSON! I HAVE UNEARTHED THE GREATEST COLLECTOR'S TREASURE OF ALL!

I CREPT INTO THE TOMB OF THE GREAT KING TUT... AND FOUND IT THERE OVER A MUMMIFIED BODY! THIS IS THE *DEMON COAT!*

KING TUT'S DEMON COAT! FANTASTIC!

BECAUSE I AM A COLLECTOR OF IMPORTANCE IT WAS GREEDY OF YOU TO SEEK ME, ANNAR! HOWEVER, IT IS A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL EGYPTAIN PIECE...

I TELL YOU THIS IS THE DEMON COAT... AT THIS MOMENT KILLERS OF THE SACRED CAIRO SOCIETY SEEK ME!

BUT, I OUTWITTED THEM! PLEASE, I ASK ONLY TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR IT! PAY ME QUICKLY!

HA! YOU'RE A DEVIL, ANNAR! I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE HUNDRED FOR THE COAT'S BEAUTY AND FIVE HUNDRED MORE FOR YOU WIT!

I-I HAVE NO TIME TO BARTER, MR. MASTERSON! BUT... NEVER FORGET... YOU DO POSSESS THE DEMON COAT!

BE GONE, YOU SLY RASCAL! HA, HA!

ANNAR'S FRIGHTENED EYES SCAN THE FOLIAGE AS HE LEAVES!

HE COMES!

ALAS! HE HAS DISPOSED OF THE SACRED COAT! QUICKLY...

DISPOILER OF THE TOMB!

INFIDEL!

AYIIII

SLAY HIM BEFORE WE ARE DISCOVERED!

LET THE COAT SEEK ITS OWN VENGEANCE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE DEFILED IT!

AND A WEEK LATER, COLLECTOR JOHN MASTERSON SAILS TO NEW YORK!

JOHN, WHY NOT WEAR THAT LOVELY EGYPTIAN COAT FOR OUR TURN ABOUT THE DECK!

I'D LOOK LIKE SOME SORT OF THEATRICAL PERFORMER IN THAT THING!

DON'T BE SILLY, DEAR! IT'S JUST THE THING FOR SHIPBOARD--

HA, HA! ALL RIGHT... MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME, AGNES!

BUT, AS JOHN MASTERSON STEPS ON DECK CLOTHED IN THE ANCIENT GARMENT...

G-GOOD GRIEF! AGNES! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU! YOUR FACE!

JOHN WHAT'S WRONG?

ABRUPTLY, A SHRILL, OMINOUS WAIL FILLS MASTERSON'S EARS! AGE OLD DEMONS SPEW FORTH FROM THE DECK...

AAIIIEEOO

YAAA! STOP! STOP! I CAN'T BEAR IT!

PANIC DRIVES THE DEMENTED COLLECTOR ACROSS THE DECK LIKE SOME STRANGE MADDENED CREATURE...

M-MERCY! MERCY! MUMMIES! DEMONS FROM THE TOMBS!

I-IT WAS GHASTLY! H-HE SCREAMED OF MUMMIES AND TOMB DEMONS AND... AND LEAPED OVERBOARD! ;SOB!; ;SOB!;

STEADY! MRS. MASTERSON! TRY WE'LL TRY TO FIND HIM!

H-HE HAD JUST PUT ON A RARE EGYPTAIN COAT W-WHEN IT FIRST STARTED... ;SOB!; ;SOB!;

HOW TERRIBLE, RICHARD!

COLLECTING ALL THOSE WEIRD EGYPTAIN PIECES MUST HAVE TURNED HIS MIND!

PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I WENT OVERBOARD ALSO! THAT SWINE, EVANS HAD JUST ABOUT RUINED ME BY DEMOTING ME TO A NEW YORK POSITION!
BUT RICHARD, I'M SURE THE EVANS IMPORTING COMPANY WILL TREAT YOU RIGHT!

ROT! WHY, ANN YOU'RE COLD!
I AM A BIT CHILLY, RICHARD! I'LL GO BACK FOR A COAT!

SUDDENLY, RICHARD BURKE'S EYES FALL ON THE COLORFUL COAT OF EVIL AND...
SAY THERE'S A COAT OF SOME SORT RIGHT HERE! SLIP IT ON ANN-- I'LL RETURN IT TO THE LOST AND FOUND LATER!
GOODNESS! THIS MUST BE THE COAT MR. MASTERSON HAD ON-- IT LOOKS EGYPTAIN!

ONCE AGAIN THE DEMON COAT FINDS A MODERN BODY... AND ONCE AGAIN FORBIDDEN EVIL FROM THE PAST IS UNLEASHED UPON ITS WEARER!
RICHARD! RICHARD! OVER THERE... A MUMMY! STOP IT!
A-ANN!
THE UNSPEAKABLE HORROR MOVES FORWARD!
NO, NO! I-IT'S COMING FOR ME! YI-I-I! THEY ARE DEMONS, RICHARD! DEMONS!

... AND EMBRACES ITS VICTIM!
EEEEEE!

THEN!
S-SHE'S DEAD! GOOD GRIEF! SHE-- DIED OF FRIGHT! A-AND THIS COAT-- SHE SHOUTED THE SAME THING MASTERSON WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE CRIED... MUMMIES... AND... DEMONS!

RICHARD BURKE'S PULSE BEAT WITH HATRED! BUT THE EXCITEMENT... THE ANTICIPATION... WAS TOO MUCH FOR A MAN IN ILL HEALTH!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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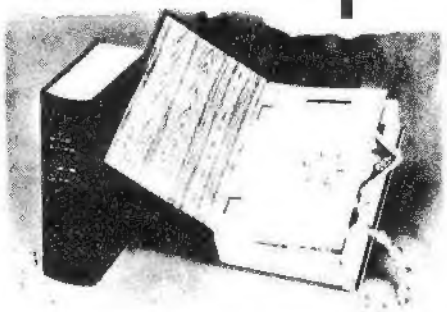

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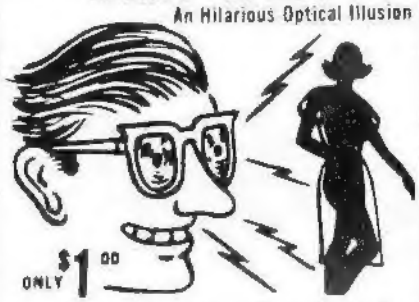

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STRICKEN WITH PANIC, BURKE BOLTS ACROSS A BUSY INTERSECTION, AND FINALLY INTO A BLIND ALLEY WHERE...

I-I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THE DEMONS OF THE PAST ARE AFTER ME!

HELP! HELP!

NO... PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE! HAVE MERCY...

BUT THE DEMONS OF EVIL ARE DEAF OF RICHARD BURKE'S PLEAS...

LATER...

WELL, WHATA YA KNOW-- A STIFF AND HE'S ALL MINE! HM-M... THAT'S A FANCY COAT HE'S GOT ON! I COULD USE IT WITH THE COLD WEATHER COMIN'...

YI-II! DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU VULTURES! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! LEAVE ME ALONE...OH!

P-PAN-HANDLE PETERS-- OFF ON ANOTHER TEAR AGAIN! L-LOOK OUT!

POOR PAN HANDLE... WE WARNED HIM TO LAY OFF THE STUFF!

WELL-- WE'D BETTER CALL THE MORGUE! NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW!

AND THUS AT CITY MORGUE, THE FANTASTIC ODYSSESY OF THE DEMON COAT REACHED ITS END---

BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, JOE! EVERY TIME THEY BRING IN A STIFF, WE GOTTA BURN THEIR CLOTHING! THAT'S A NICE COAT... I'D LIKE TO HAVE IT!

YOU KNOW THE CITY HEALTH ORDINANCE ABOUT THAT, ED! DO YOU WANTA CATCH SOMETHING BAD?

The End